



## Child Risk Management Policy

### Purpose

The purpose of this strategy is to eliminate and minimize risk to children and to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all students.

The legislation that underpins this policy is the following:

*Child Protection Act 1999*

*Education (General Provisions) Act 2006*

*Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2001*

*Working with Children Act 2000*, and the,

*Working with Children (Risk Management & Screening) Regulation 2011.*

### Scope

Students and employees, including full-time, part-time, permanent, fixed-term and casual employees, as well as contractors, volunteers and people undertaking work experience or vocational placements

### Policy Statement

#### Policy Statement and a **Statement about Commitment**

The purpose of this policy is to provide a safe learning environment to our children and to minimise the risk of harm to their overall wellbeing. We do this by providing a clear set of guidelines, reporting processes and training across all areas of our school community. In doing so we also aim to fulfill the key values of our school which are Integrity; Care & Compassion; Respect; Responsibility; & Commitment.

Agnew School is committed to the safety and wellbeing of students enrolled at the school. In accordance with sections 171 and 172 of the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000* (Qld), Agnew School is dedicated to eliminating and minimizing risks to child safety through this Strategy which includes and refers to various other policies and procedures to effectively ensure the safety and wellbeing of children in the school's care.

This Child Risk Management Strategy is evidence of Agnew School's commitment to the safety and wellbeing of children and the protection of children from harm in fulfilment of the requirements of section 3(1)(a) of the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Regulation 2011* (Qld).

Agnew School is also committed to the safety of children through the reporting procedures as stipulated under sections 366, 366A and 366B of the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, and the reporting of harm under Section 10 of the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2001. Agnew School ensures that it meets these obligations and the provision of a safe environment for its children by regular training of staff about child protection, by partnering with external agencies, and by the explicit and ongoing vigilance around child safety with those who work in, and engage with, our broader school community.

## Policy

### Implementation

In practice, Agnew School's commitment to acting in accordance to the *Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act ("the Act")* to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students means that it will implement the measures outlined below in points 1 - 8.

#### 1. CODE OF CONDUCT

At Agnew School we expect our employees to conduct themselves as follows:

School employees are expected to always behave in ways that promote the safety, welfare and well-being of children and young people. They must actively seek to prevent harm to children and young people, and to support those who have been harmed.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Employees should avoid situations where they are alone in an enclosed space with a student.
- When physical contact with a student is a necessary part of the teaching/learning experience, employees must exercise caution to ensure that the contact is appropriate and acceptable. Employees must always advise the student of what they intend doing and seek their consent.
- Employees must not develop a relationship with any student that is, or that can be interpreted as having a personal rather than a professional interest in a student.
- Employees must not have a romantic or sexual relationship with a student.

This commitment is evidence of Agnew School's fulfilment of the requirements of section 3(1)(b) of the Regulation.

Further guidelines around Code of Conduct is contained within the following OneSchool publications:

- Staff Handbook
- Parent & Student Handbook

#### 2. RECRUITMENT, SELECTION, TRAINING AND MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

Agnew School is committed to recruiting, selecting, training and managing employees in such a way that limits risks to children. In particular, Agnew School will:

- Ensure that its recruitment and selection procedures act to reduce the risk of harm to children from employees via:
  - Accurate position descriptions, including whether the successful applicant must be a teacher registered with the Queensland College of Teachers (who has been subject to relevant police and other safety checks), whether a Blue Card is necessary for the successful applicant, the responsibilities and supervision

associated with the position, the nature and environment of the service provided to children, and the experience and qualifications required by the successful applicant

- Advertising the position with a clear statement about the school's commitment to safe and supportive work practices and identifying that candidates will be subject to a teacher registration check or Blue Card screening, a police check, referee checks, identification verification and the requirement to disclose any information relevant to the candidates' eligibility to engage in activities including young people
- A selection process that includes assessing the application via an interview process and referee and other checks (as identified above) based on the accurate position description
- Ensure that its training and management procedures act to reduce the risk of harm to children from employees via:
  - Management processes that are consistent, fair and supportive
  - Performance management processes to help employees to improve their performance in a positive manner
  - Supportive processes for staff when they are experiencing challenges, such as mentoring, mediation, conflict resolution, coaching, additional training, and external support and counselling services
  - An induction program which thoroughly addresses the school's policies and procedures, particularly its expectations regarding child risk management and to assist employees to understand their role in providing a safe and supportive environment for children
  - Training new and existing staff on an ongoing basis to enhance skills and knowledge and to reduce exposure to risks, as follows:
    - The school's policies and procedures
    - Identifying, assessing and minimising risks to children
    - Handling a disclosure or suspicion of harm to a child
  - Keeping a record of the training provided to employees
  - Exit interviews to assist the school to identify broader issues of concern that may impact on the safety and welling of children at the school

This commitment is evidence of Agnew School's fulfilment of the requirements of section 3(1)(c) of the Regulation.

### **3. HANDLING DISCLOSURES OR SUSPICIONS OF HARM**

Any of the types of concerns or reports below should be reported and managed under the Agnew School Child Protection Policy/Procedure, as follows:

- All staff with concerns about sexual abuse or likely sexual abuse;
- Teachers with concerns of sexual or physical abuse; and
- All staff who have received a report of inappropriate behaviour by another staff member.

In accordance with the *Child Protection Act 1999*, if a staff member, teaching or non-teaching, is aware or reasonably suspects harm has been caused to a student under 18 years and the harm has not been reported under the Child Protection Policy, the staff member must report

the harm to the school's School Administrator. The types of harm reported may include emotional or psychological abuse or neglect or sexual exploitation.

If the School Administrator is aware or reasonably suspects the harm has been caused and that the student is in need of protection, the School Administrator must report the harm or suspected harm to the Chief Executive of the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services (or other department administering the *Child Protection Act 1999*). In assessing whether a student is in need of protection, the School Administrator will consider the "Significant Harm Test" and the "Parent Willing and Able Test" as detailed in the Agnew School Child Protection Procedure, as well as utilize the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services' Child Protection Guide resource.

Please refer to Agnew School Child Protection Policy for information of the process for reporting all types of harm, including sexual abuse.

To report any type of harm, all staff members should use the Report of Suspected Harm or Sexual Abuse Form in Appendix 2 of this document.

Furthermore, and in accordance with section 76 of the *Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005*, the Regional Principal of Agnew School will report to the Queensland College of Teachers any investigations into allegations of harm caused, or likely to be caused, to a child because of the conduct of a relevant teacher at the school.

This commitment is evidence of Agnew School's fulfilment of the requirements of section 3(1)(d) of the Regulation.

#### **4. MANAGING BREACHES OF THIS CHILD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Agnew School is committed to appropriately managing breaches of this Child Risk Management Strategy in accordance with its other relevant policies as appropriate in the circumstances, such as its Child Protection Policy/Procedure and Employment Agreement or equivalent, and this is evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of section 3(1)(e) of the Regulation.

#### **5. IMPLEMENTING AND REVIEWING THE CHILD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

This Strategy in its entirety and its related policies and procedures are evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of section 3(1)(f)(i) of the Regulations relating to implementation.

The introduction to this Child Risk Management Strategy and the "Compliance and Monitoring" section below state Agnew School's commitment to reviewing the Strategy annually and are evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of section 3(1)(f)(i) of the Regulation relating to review.

#### **6. BLUE CARD POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

Agnew School's Blue Card Monitoring Policy and Register are evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of section 3(1)(f)(ii) of the Regulation.

#### **7. HIGH RISK MANAGEMENT PLANS**

***Agnew School through its Workplace Health and Safety Policy is committed to identifying risks, assessing risks, eliminating and minimizing risks and the monitoring of risk to the safety of children on an ongoing basis. Agnew school will utilize various risk management tools to assist it in this process and will keep appropriate records of the decisions made and actions taken in relation to risks to children.***

This commitment is evidence of Agnew School's fulfilment of the requirements of section 3(1)(g) of the Regulation.

## **8. STRATEGIES OF COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT**

Agnew School's commitment to making this Child Risk Management Strategy available to students, parents and employees via its enrolment package, ASM in Moodle (LMS) and TASS (SMS) is evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of section 3(1)(h)(i) of the Regulation.

Agnew School is committed to training employees in relation to risks to children and will conduct this training regularly via annual formal training events, informal updates at staff meetings and regular discussions between managers and their staff, and this is evidence of fulfilment of the requirements of section 3(1)(h)(ii) of the Regulation.

### **Responsibilities**

Agnew School is responsible for developing and implementing this Child Risk Management Strategy and related policies and procedures to ensure it fulfils its obligations.

All employees at Agnew School are responsible for acting in compliance with this Child Risk Management Strategy and related policies and procedures.

### **Compliance and Monitoring**

Agnew School is committed to the annual review of this Strategy. Agnew School will also record, monitor and report to the school board regarding any breaches of the Strategy.

In addition, Agnew School is committed to other various compliance and monitoring arrangements made under relevant policies and procedures.

## **Policies Release Details**

Date of Policy:

June 2017

Approved by Board:

June 2017

Review Date:

Annually

## **Related Policies and Documents**

### **Related Documents**

- Agnew School Child Protection Policy
- Agnew School Complaints Policy
- Agnew School Blue Card Register
- Agnew School Workplace Health and Safety Policy
- Agnew School Child Protection Procedures
- Agnew School Professional Performance and Development Policy
- Agnew School Performance Management System
- Agnew School Blue Card Monitoring Policy

## Helpful Links

- Independent Schools Queensland's [Child Protection Decision Support Trees](#)
- Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services' [Child Protection Guide](#) resource

## Appendices

- Appendix 1 - Summary of Reporting Harm

## Summary of Reporting Harm

Who	What abuse	Test	Report to	Legislation	Status
All staff	Sexual	Awareness or a reasonable suspicion Sexually abused or likely to be sexually abused	School Administrator, through to Police	EGPA, sections 366 and 366A	Unchanged
Teacher	Sexual and physical	Significant harm Parent willing and able	School Administrator, through to Child Safety	CPA, sections 13E and 13G	New
All staff	Physical, psychological, emotional, neglect, exploitation	Significant harm Parent willing and able	School Administrator, through to Child Safety	Accreditation Regulations, section 10	Amended
School Administrator	Any	Not of a level that is otherwise reportable to Child Safety, refer without consent	Family and Child Connect	CPA, sections 13B and 159M	New
All Staff	Any	Not of a level that is otherwise reportable to Child Safety, refer with consent	School Administrator, through to Family and Child Connect	CPA, sections 13B and 159M	New
Any member of the public	Any	Significant harm Parent willing and able	Child Safety	CPA, section 13A	Unchanged

**Private and Confidential**  
**Report of Suspected Harm or Sexual Abuse**

Date:
School:
School Phone:
School Fax:

DETAILS OF STUDENT/CHILD HARMED OR AT RISK OF HARM/ABUSE:	
Legal Name:	Preferred Name:
DOB:	Gender:
Year Level:	Cultural Background:
Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/> Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander <input type="checkbox"/>	
Does the student have a disability verified under EAP: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Disability Category:
Student's Residential Address:	Phone:
	Student's Personal Mobile:

FAMILY DETAILS	
Parent/caregiver 1:	Relationship to Student:
Address (if different from student):	
Phone: (H):	(W): (M):
Parent/caregiver 2:	Relationship to Student:
Address (if different from student):	
Phone: (H):	(W): (M):
Is the student in out of home care: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	

PERSON ALLEGED TO HAVE CAUSED THE HARM OR ABUSE		
<input type="checkbox"/> Adult family member	<input type="checkbox"/> Child family member	<input type="checkbox"/> Other adult
<input type="checkbox"/> Student/other child	<input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	

PROVIDE ALL INFORMATION YOU HAVE WHICH LED TO THE SUSPICION OF HARM OR ABUSE (Attach extra pages if necessary).
<p><b>Details of any harm and/or sexual abuse to the student</b> – please include: Time and date of the incident; source of information; details of person alleged to have caused the harm or sexual abuse; physical appearance of any injury; immediate and ongoing safety concerns; any disclosures made by student; any previous incidents of harm; behavioural indicators of harm; presence of any medical needs or developmental delays; and if the information relates to an unborn child, the alleged risk to the unborn child.</p>



Please indicate the identity of anyone else who may have information about the harm or abuse

Additional information provided as an attachment YES  NO

<b>Name of staff member making report to the Statutory Agency if not the School Administrator:</b>	<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Position:</b>		
<b>Regional Principal:</b>	<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
<b>Regional Principal email address:</b>		
<b>Response requested by school:</b>		

ACTION TAKEN		
Form was faxed or emailed to (please tick which agencies the form was sent to):	<input type="checkbox"/>	Queensland Police Services (QPS)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Department of Communities (Child Safety Services)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Family and Child Connect

(Adapted from EQ SP-4 Report of Suspected Harm or Risk of Harm)

**Confirm receipt of faxed or emailed form and ensure original is stored in a secure location along with any other documentation collected for the purpose of this report.**